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MONDAY
APRIL 12, 1954

André de Staercke called me this morning to say the election yesterday in Belgium had resulted in [redacted] considerable gains for the Socialist Party at the expense of the Christian Democrats. Additionally, it was a great personal triumph for Spaak, whom he thinks will become either Prime Minister or Foreign Minister. André is [redacted] much in favor of his selecting the latter post, if he is offered a choice, on the grounds that his eloquence, personality, and enthusiasm over European integration would be [redacted] helpful in connection with our projects.

E. and I went out to a meeting of the Club at the de Waldners' house near Mortefontaine. They occupy a huge old farm building on the property of the Duc de Gramont, with a lake in the distance and their stud farm adjoining. It is an [redacted] attractive place. There is a [redacted] dairy in the basement where Pauline Borghese had installed a marble tub. Pipes run into it from the adjoining cow barn, and it was there she took her famous milk baths. It must be a wonderful place in hot weather, with the marble tub and stone seats around this huge vault. Madame Esmond (the president), the de Waldners, Andrée de Vilmorin, and Marie Louise Bousquet were there.

We left immediately after lunch and motored in the bright sunshine through the beautiful countryside back to Paris, stopping for a few minutes at the Chinese pagoda of C. T. Loo and Co.

Jean Monnet called me at the office this afternoon from Washington. I gathered he was getting along well with his negotiations on the CSC loan. He said Foster would have a message for me regarding my talking to Guy Mollet about the Indo-China matters that Foster is to discuss with the French Government.

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Graham Martin came to see me and told me of the great confusion which he found prevailing in the State Department during his recent visit to Washington. He appears [redacted] relieved at his decision not to go back there but to remain here another year.

I went over to see Kit Steel, who said the French Cabinet, at its extraordinary meeting this morning, had given the necessary authorization for the signature of the U.K./EDC Treaty, and that this would be accomplished tomorrow at noon. Rumors are prevalent tonight, many of them contradictory, as to what occurred during this meeting. One thing seems certain. The URAS members are discontented over its outcome and are gathering at six o'clock at Corniglion-Molinier's to debate whether their representatives will resign from the Cabinet. With the parliamentary cat away, Laniel's mice have begun to play. As far as we are aware, the matter of fixing a date for the EDC debate was not discussed this morning. Eden is to make his speech on the U.K. declaration in the House of Commons Wednesday at 4:30. He had expressed the vain hope that no leaks would occur before then as to the terms of U.K./EDC association; unhappily, the afternoon press in Paris carries accurate summaries of the document.

Schoenbrun called me tonight to say he had delayed his trip to Indo-China in order to cover the Dulles visit here. He is trying to discover just what took place at the Cabinet reunion this morning but has not yet turned up anything we did not already know.

Nancy Lancaster arrived this evening to spend a week with us.

While we were walking last night we ran into Bob Marjolin, who is the chief figur in the OEEC. He was coming out of the magnificent building which is its headquarters. It was formerly the house of Henri de Rothschild. I remember Philippe, as executor for his father, saying he had offered it to Mr. Caffery, then Ambassador in Paris,

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before selling it to OEEC. Marjolin told me last night they had paid 95,000,000 francs for it -- roughly $275,000. 41, rue du Faubourg St.-Honoré cost the American Government about $1,800,000, most of which was paid in hard currency, whereas the Chateau de la Muette was sold for French francs. This latter place, with its superb park, had been maintained by the Germans during the war in excellent physical condition and, being a modern house, might have been moved into almost immediately.

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